

Attachment - Children's disABILITY Services (CDS)

This document outlines the precautions implemented in regions that are designated Critical (red) per the Province of Manitoba's Pandemic Response System. These precautions will remain in effect for all Critical (red) regions until further notice.

In-Person Visits

- With the move to Critical (Red), all in-person visits by CDS staff (case management, child development, autism outreach and behavioural psychology) are suspended until further notice. Contact with families and collaterals should be conducted remotely through the use of telephone, email and virtual meetings (GoToMeeting/Microsoft Teams).
- Virtual services will continue, except if staffing levels are considerably reduced due to illness. In that event, work will be prioritized by risk and safety needs and addressed in accordance with business continuity plans.
- Only critical child safety related in-person visits may be provided to address situations where there are concerns that, without care, there could be situations involving imminent safety, harm or hospitalization. All alternatives should be exhausted prior to considering an in-person visit, and staff must consult with their Program Manager prior to attending an in-person meeting. If deemed necessary, appropriate personal protective equipment must be worn and current public health recommendations and safety protocols must be followed throughout the entire visit.

Case Management Services

- Case managers are expected to continue providing all case management services, including needs assessment and service planning, to families with all level of needs – from critical to low – during this period. Additional COVID-19 related supports may continue to be approved or extended to December 31, 2020, based on families changing assessed need, to support families during this period. CDS staff are encouraged to reach out to families to check-in on their well-being with the change to Critical (Red) and to review whether appropriate and adequate supports are in place to meet their needs, as a result of the change in pandemic response level.

Direct Supports to Families

- There are no changes to the availability of services like respite and employment support. CDS is not currently restricting the availability of these services. Therefore, all families may continue to access these supports, regardless of their assessed level of need. This applies to all services received from Direct Support Workers, agency or self-managed providers. Families should consider keeping their service providers in their social bubble to allow them

to continue to receive services throughout this period as well as their children's school cohort to maintain their children's social connections outside of the school setting.

- Families receiving self-managed supports may continue to receive services from their own service providers during Critical (Red), regardless of their assessed level of need. Families should consider keeping their service providers in their social bubble to allow them to continue to receive services throughout this period.
- Delivery of equipment and medicals supplies will continue during the pandemic. Questions about deliveries can be made to the Materials Distribution Agency (MDA) at 204-945-2105 or 1-800-561-8313. Requests for disability and health supports should continue to be made to the Disability and Health Supports Unit.

CDS-Funded Service Agencies

- Across Manitoba, agencies will be similarly be delivering services virtually, with the exception of addressing critical needs. However, there are no changes to St. Amant Autism Program's services, including the classroom, which will remain open. Agencies that continue to deliver critical in-person services will be provided assistance to ensure the procurement of personal protective equipment.

Child Care and Schools

- Please note that child care providers and schools remain open at this time and no changes will be made to cohort sizes. Service providers may provide in-person services for children with additional needs in childcare settings. However, school closures may occur on an individual basis, following the advice of Public Health.
- Schools are expected to communicate directly and frequently to families about changes to education. Caregivers should contact their child's classroom teacher or school principal if they have questions about their child's learning plan or how their child will be supported as pandemic response levels change.

If you have any questions regarding the CDS Appendix, please contact Lori Neustaedter A/Director at 204-391-0170.

Facts are key in the fight against COVID-19, visit [Manitoba.ca/covid19](https://www.manitoba.ca/covid19)

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